

PRO

PROVIDENTLY. *adv.* [from *provident*.] With foresight; with wise precaution.

Nature having designed water-fowls to fly in the air, and live in the water, she *providently* makes their feathers of such a texture, that they do not admit the water. *Boyle.*

PROVIDER. *n. f.* [from *providere*.] He who provides or procures.

Here's money for my meat,
I would have left it on the board, so soon
As I had made my meal, and parted thence
With prayers for the provider. *Shakef.*

PROVINCE. *n. f.* [from *provincia*, Fr. *provincia*, Latin.]

Those provinces these arms of mine did conquer. *Shak.*
Greece, Italy and Sicily were divided into commonwealths,
till swallowed up, and made provinces by Rome. *Temple.*

See them broke with toils, or sunk in ease,
Or infamous for plunder'd provinces. *Pope.*

The proper office or business of any one.

I am fit for honour's toughest task;
Nor ever yet found fooling was my province. *Orway.*

Nor can I alone sustain this day's province. *More.*

'Tis thine, whatever is pleasant, good or fair;
All nature is thy province, life thy care. *Dryden.*

'Tis not the pretor's province to bellow
True freedom. *Dryden's Persius.*

The woman's province is to be careful in her economy,
and chaste in her affection. *Tatler.*

3. A region; a tract.

Of heav'n they march'd, and many a province wide. *Milt.*

'Tis their understandings are cooped up in narrow bounds;
so that they never look abroad into other provinces of the intellectual world. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

PROVINCIAL. *adj.* [from *provincia*, Fr. *provincia*.]

1. Relating to a province.

The duke dare not more stretch
This finger of mine, than he dare rack his own;
His subject am I not, nor here provincial. *Shakef.*

2. Appendant to the provincial country.

Some have delivered the polity of spirits, and left an account even to their provincial dominions. *Brown.*

3. Not of the mother country; rude; unpolished.

They build and treat with such magnificence,
That, like th' ambitious monarchs of the age,
They give the law to our provincial rage. *Dryden.*

A country 'quire having only the provincial accent upon his tongue, which is neither a fault, nor in his power to remedy, must marry a cant wench. *Swift.*

4. Belonging only to an archbishop's jurisdiction; not recommended.

A law made in a provincial synod, is properly termed a provincial constitution. *Aylmer's Parergon.*

PROVINCIAL. *n. f.* [from *provincia*, Fr. *provincia*.] A spiritual governor.

Valignanus was provincial of the Jesuits in the Indies. *Still.*

TO PROVINCIATE. *v. a.* [from *provincia*.] To turn to a province. A word not in use.

When there was a design to provinciate the whole kingdom, Druina, though offered a canton, would not accept of it.

TO PROVINCE. *v. n.* [from *provincia*, Fr. *provincia*.] To lay a stock or branch of a vine in the ground to take root for more increase.

PROVISION. *n. f.* [from *provisio*, Fr. *provisio*, Latin.]

1. The act of providing beforehand.

Kalander knew, that provision is the foundation of hospitality, and thrift the jewel of magnificence. *Sidney.*

2. Measures taken beforehand.

Five days we do allot thee for provision,
To shield thee from disasters of the world. *Shakef.*

He preserved all points of humanity, in taking order and making provision for the relief of strangers distressed. *Bacon.*

The prudent part is to provide remedies for the present evils, and provisions against future events. *Temple.*

Religion lays the strictest obligations upon men, to make the best provision for their comfortable subsistence in this world, and their salvation in the next. *Tillotson.*

3. Accumulation of stores beforehand; stock collected.

Mendoza advertised, that he would valiantly defend the city, so long as he had any provision of victuals. *Kneller.*

In such abundance lies our choice,
As leaves a greater store of fruit untouch'd,
Still hanging incorruptible, till men
Grow up to their provision. *Milton.*

David, after he had made such vast provision of materials for the temple, yet because he had dip his hands in blood, was not permitted to lay a stone in that sacred pile. *South.*

4. Victuals; food; provender.

He caused provision to be brought in. *Clarendon.*

Provisions laid in large for man or beast.

5. Stipulation; terms settled.

This law was only to reform the degenerate English, but there was no care taken for the reformation of the mere Irish,

PRO

no ordinance, no provision made for the abolishing of their barbarous customs. *Dryden's Ireland.*

PROVISIONAL. *adj.* [from *provisio*, Fr. from *provisum*.] Temporarily established; provided for present need.

The commenda femeltris grew out of a natural equity, that, in the time of the patron's respite given him to present, the church should not be without a provisional pastor. *Aylmer.*

PROVISIONALLY. *adv.* [from *provisio*, Fr. from *provisum*.] By way of provision.

The abbot of St. Martin was born, was baptized, and declared a man provisionally, till time should show what he would prove, nature had moulded him so untowardly. *Lact.*

PROVISO. *n. f.* [Latin: *provisio rem sua se habetur esse*.] Stipulation; caution; provisional condition.

This proviso is needful, that the sheriff may not have the like power of life as the marshal hath. *Spenser.*

Some will allow the church no further power, than only to exhort, and this but with a proviso too, that it extends not to such as think themselves too wise to be advised. *South.*

He doth deny his prisoners,
But with proviso and exception,
That we, at our own charge, shall ransom strait
His brother-in-law. *Shakef. Henry IV.*

PROVOCATION. *n. f.* [from *provocatio*, Lat. *provocatio*, Fr.]

1. An act or cause by which anger is raised.

It is a fundamental law, in the Turkish empire, that they may, without any other provocation, make war upon Christendom for the propagation of their law. *Bacon.*

2. Tempt not my swelling rage
With black reproaches, scorn and provocation. *Smith.*

3. An appeal to a judge.

A provocation is every act, whereby the office of the judge or his assistance is asked; a provocation including both a judicial and an extrajudicial appeal. *Aylmer.*

4. I know not whether, in the following passage, it be appeal or intention.

The like effects may grow in all towards their pastor, and in their pastor towards every of them, between whom there daily and interchangeably pass in the hearing of God himself, and in the presence of his holy angels, so many heavenly acclamations, exultations, provocations, and petitions. *Hazen.*

PROVOCATIVE. *n. f.* [from *provocatio*.] Any thing which revives a decayed or cloyed appetite.

There would be no variety of tastes to solicit his palate, and occasion excess, nor any artificial provocatives to relieve satiety. *Adisson.*

PROVOCATIVENESS. *n. f.* [from *provocatio*.] The quality of being provocative.

TO PROVOKE. *v. a.* [from *provocare*, Fr. *provocare*, Latin.]

1. To rouse; to excite by something offensive; to awake.

Ye provoke me unto wrath, burning incense unto other Gods. *Jer. xlv. 8.*

Neither to provoke nor dread
New war provok'd. *Milton.*

2. To what their courage, and their rage provoke. *Dryden.*

I neither fear, nor will provoke the war. *Dryden.*

3. To anger; to enrage; to offend; to incite.

Though often provoked, by the insolence of some of the bishops, to a dislike of their overmuch fervour, his integrity to the king was without blemish. *Clarendon.*

Such acts
Of contumacy will provoke the highest. *Milton.*

Agamemnon provokes Apollo against them, whom he was willing to appease afterwards. *Pope.*

4. To cause; to promote.

Drink is a great provoker; it provokes and unprovokes. *Shak.*

One Petro covered up his patient with warm cloaths, and when the fever began a little to decline, gave him cold water to drink till he provoked twat. *Arbutnot.*

5. To challenge.

He now provokes the sea-gods from the shore,
Sucking one's ill, another to infect. *Sidney.*

TO PROWL. *v. n.* To wander for prey; to prey; to plunder.

The champion robbers by night,
And prowls and filches by day. *Tyffer.*

Nor do they bend so quietly the loss of some parcels confiscated abroad, as the great detriment which they suffer by some prowling vice-admiral or public minister. *Raleigh.*

As when a prowling wolf,
Whom hunger drives to seek new haunt for prey. *Milton.*

Shall he, who looks erect on heav'n,
E'er stoop to mingle with the prowling herd,
And dip his tongue in gore. *Thomson.*

PROWL. *n. f.* [from *prowl*.] One that roves about for prey.

On churchyards drear,
The shrouded body from the grave. *Thomson.*

PROXIMATE. *adj.* [from *proximus*, Lat.] Next in the series of ratiocination; near and immediate; opposed to remote and mediate.

Writing a theory of the deluge, we were to show the proximate natural causes of it. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

Substance is the remote genus of bird, because it agrees not only to all kinds of animals, but also to things inanimate;

2. Causar; promotor.

Drink, Sir, is a great provoker of norefainting, sleep, and urine. *Shakef. Macbeth.*

PROVOKINGLY. *adv.* [from *provocare*.] In such a manner as to raise anger.

When we see a man that yesterday kept a humiliation, today invading the possessions of his brethren, we need no other proof how hypocritically and provokingly he confessed his pride. *Decay of Piety.*

PROVOST. *n. f.* [from *provost*, Sax. *provost*, Fr. *provost*, Ital. *provost*, Lat.]

1. The chief of any body: as, the provost of a college.

2. The executioner of an army.

Kingston, provost marshal of the king's army, was deemed not only cruel but inhuman in his executions. *Hayward.*

PROVOSTSHIP. *n. f.* [from *provost*.] The office of a provost.

C. Pisto first rose, and afterwards was advanced to the provostship of Rome by Tiberius. *Hakewill.*

PROW. *n. f.* [from *prova*, Spanish; *prova*, Lat.] The head or forepart of a ship.

I he sea-victory of Vespasian was a lady holding a palm in her hand, at her foot the prow of a ship. *Peacham.*

Straight to the Dutch he turns his dreadful prow,
More fierce th' important quarrel to decide. *Dryden.*

PROW. *adj.* Valiant. *Spenser.*

PROWESS. *n. f.* [from *prova*, Italian; *prova*, Fr.] Bravery; valour; military gallantry.

Men of such prowess, as not to know fear in themselves, and yet to teach it in others that should deal with them; for they had often made their lives triumph over most terrible dangers, never dismayed, and ever fortunate. *Sidney.*

I hope
That your wisdom will direct my thought,
Or that your prowess can me yield relief. *Fa. Queen.*

By heav'n's mere grace, not by our prowess done. *F. Qu.*

Henry the fifth,
By his prowess conquered all France. *Shakef.*

Nor should thy prowess want praise and esteem,
But that 'tis shewn in treason. *Shakef. Henry VI.*

Those are they
First seen in acts of prowess eminent,
And great exploits, but of true virtue void. *Milton.*

These beyond compare of mortal prowess.
Michael I of celestial armies prince;
And thou in military prowess next,
Gabriel! *Milton's Par. Lost, l. vi.*

The vigour of this arm was never vain,
And that my wonted prowess I retain,
Witness these heaps of slaughter on the plain. *Dryden.*

These were the entertainments of the foster nations, that fell under the virtue and prowess of the two last empires. *Temp.*

PROWEST. *adj.* [the superlative formed from *prow*, *adj.*]

1. Bravest; most valiant.

They be two of the proudest knights on ground,
And oft approv'd in many a hard assay,
And eke of surest steel, that may be found,
Do arm yourself against that day them to confound. *F. Q.*

2. Brave; valiant.

The fairest of her sex, Angelica,
His daughter, fought by many prowess knights. *Milton.*

TO PROWL. *v. a.* [Of this word the etymology is doubtful: the old dictionaries write *prale*, which the dreamer *Cojanabon* derives from *provalis*, ready, quick. *Skinner*, a far more judicious etymologist, deduces it from *praeler*, a diminutive formed by himself from *præter*, to prey, Fr. perhaps it may be formed, by accidental corruption, from *præter*.] To rove over.

He prowls each place, still in new colours deckt,
Sucking one's ill, another to infect. *Sidney.*

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